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MARK HAZZARD: MERC

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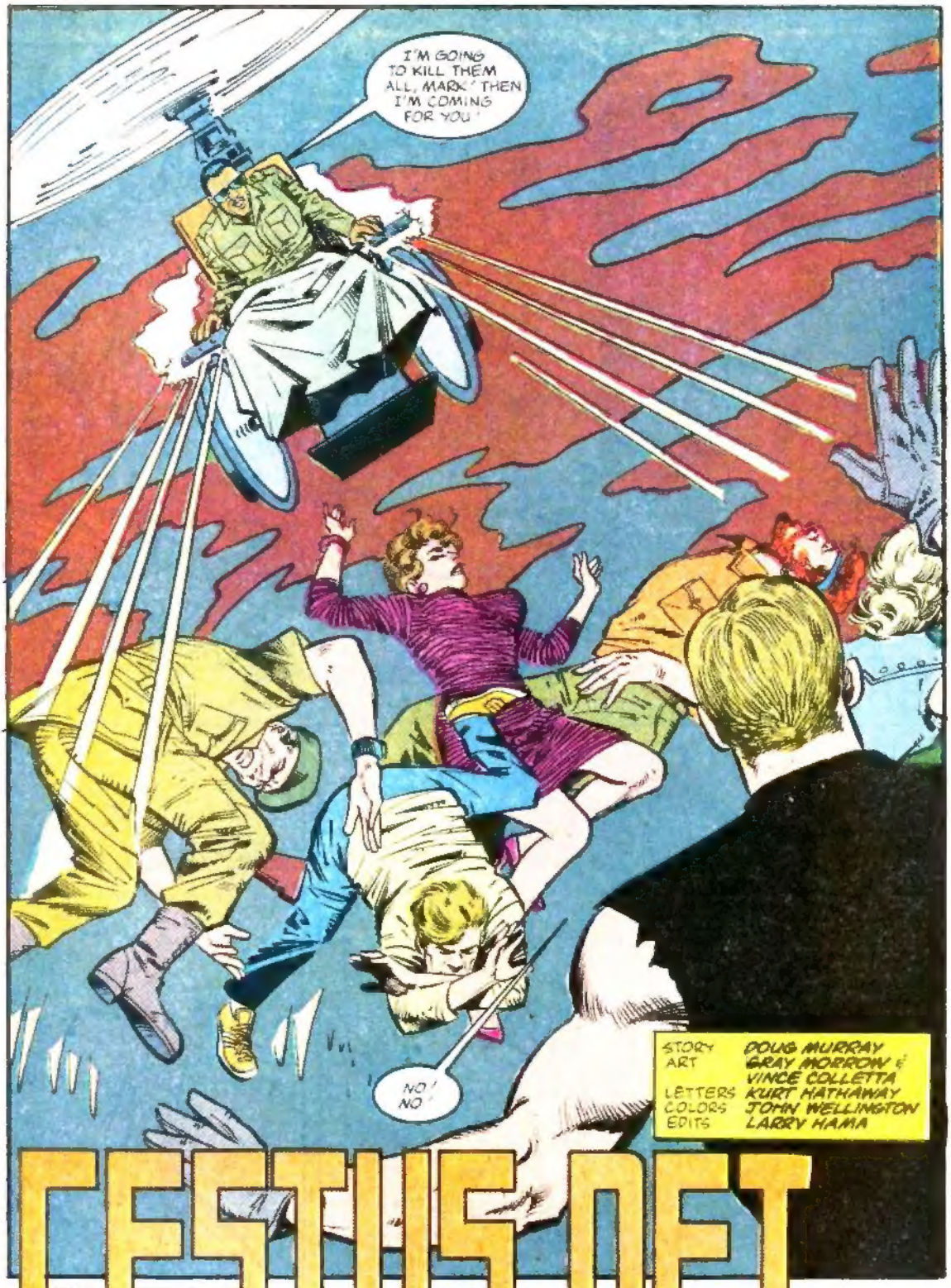
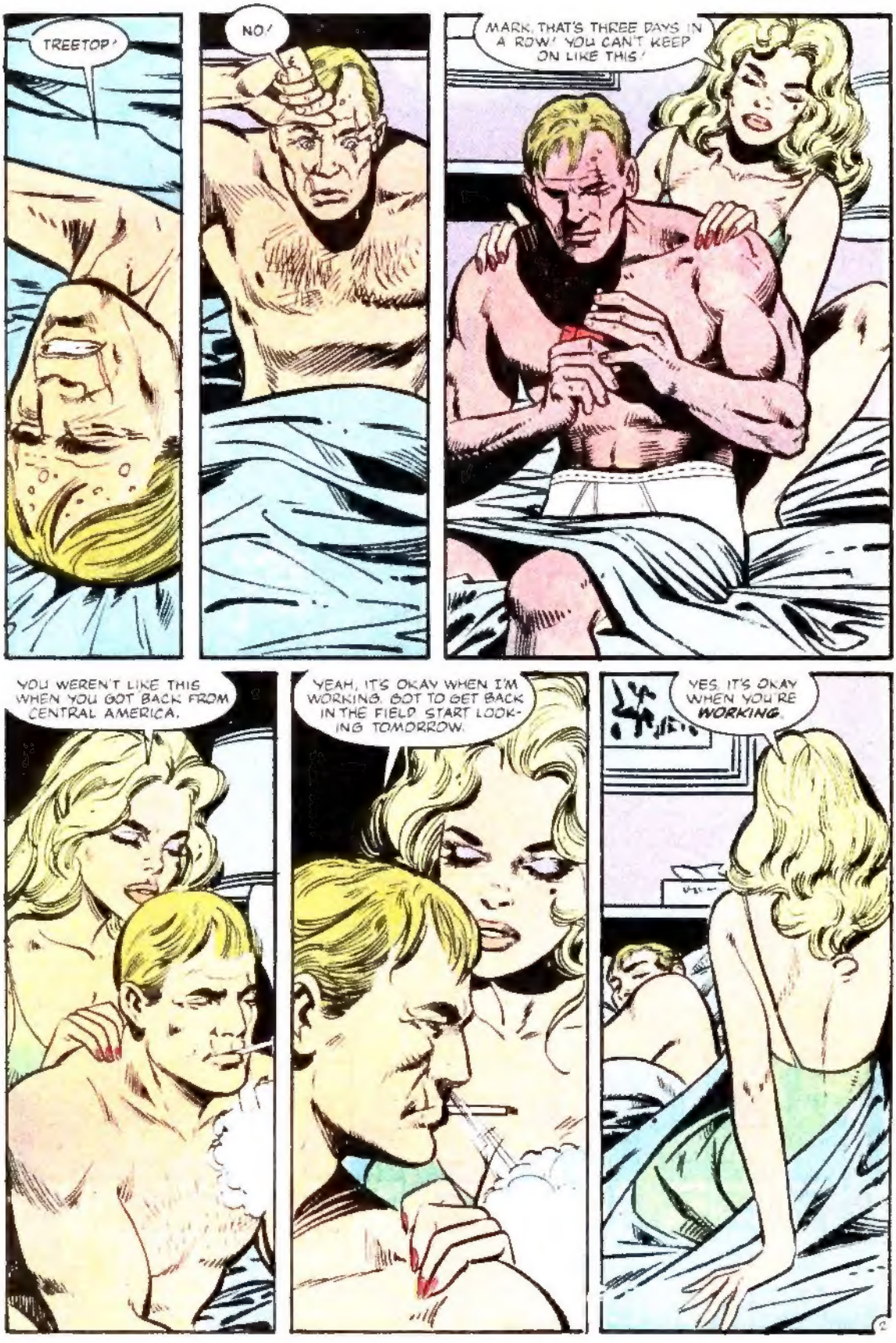
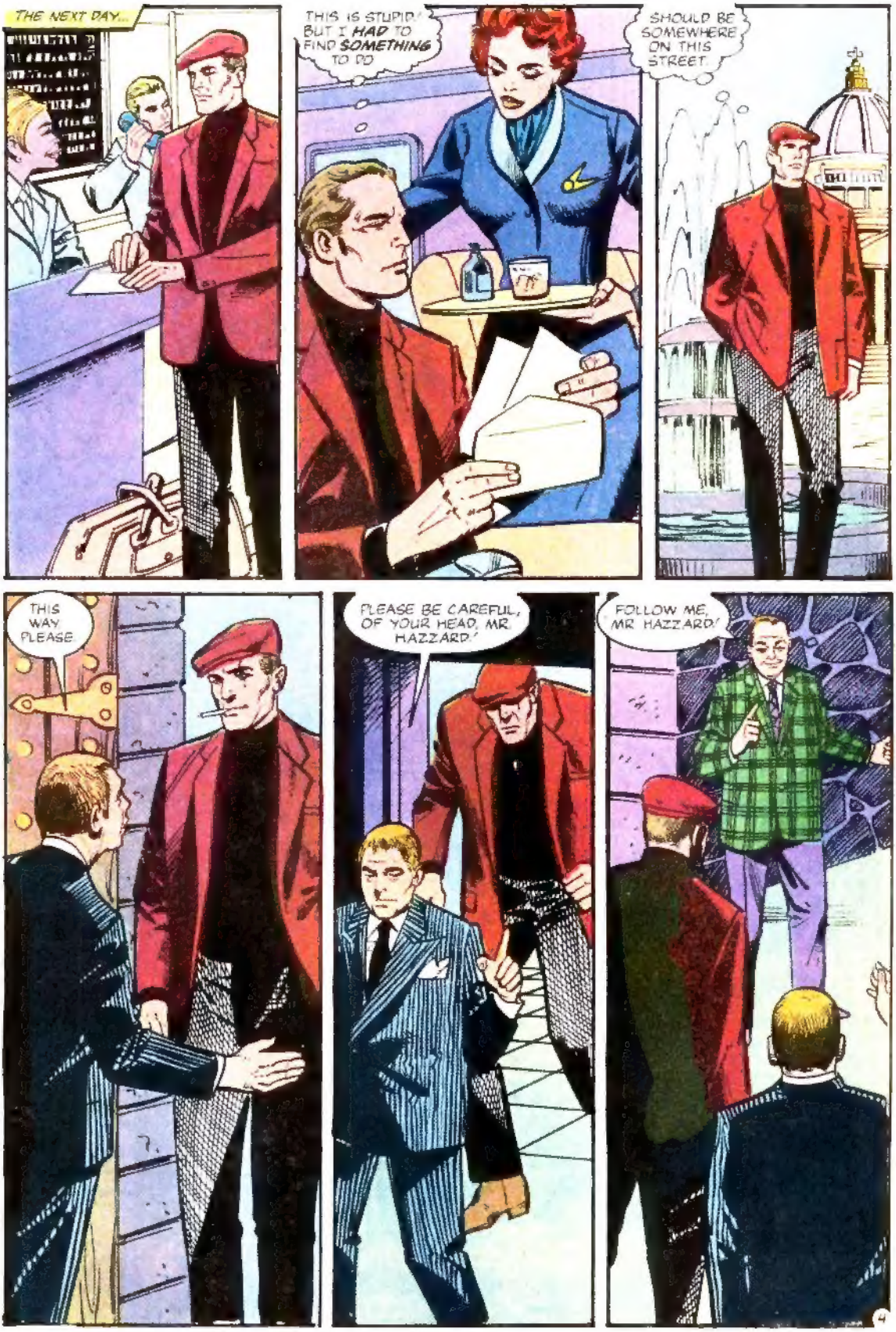

I'M GOING TO KILL THEM ALL, MARK! THEN I'M COMING FOR YOU!
NO! NO!
STORY DOUG MURRAY
ART GRAY MORROW & VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERS KURT HATHAWAY
COLORS JOHN WELLINGTON
EDITS LARRY HAMA

CESTUS DEI

MARK HAZZARD: MERC ™ **Vol. 1, No. 8, June, 1987** Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD PICTURES COMPANY. James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Mel Schuffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices.** Published monthly. Copyright © 1987 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price 75¢ per copy in the U.S. and 95¢ in Canada. Subscription rate $4.00 for 12 issues. Canada and foreign $11.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. MARVEL and MARK HAZZARD: MERC (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MARK HAZZARD: MERC, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016**

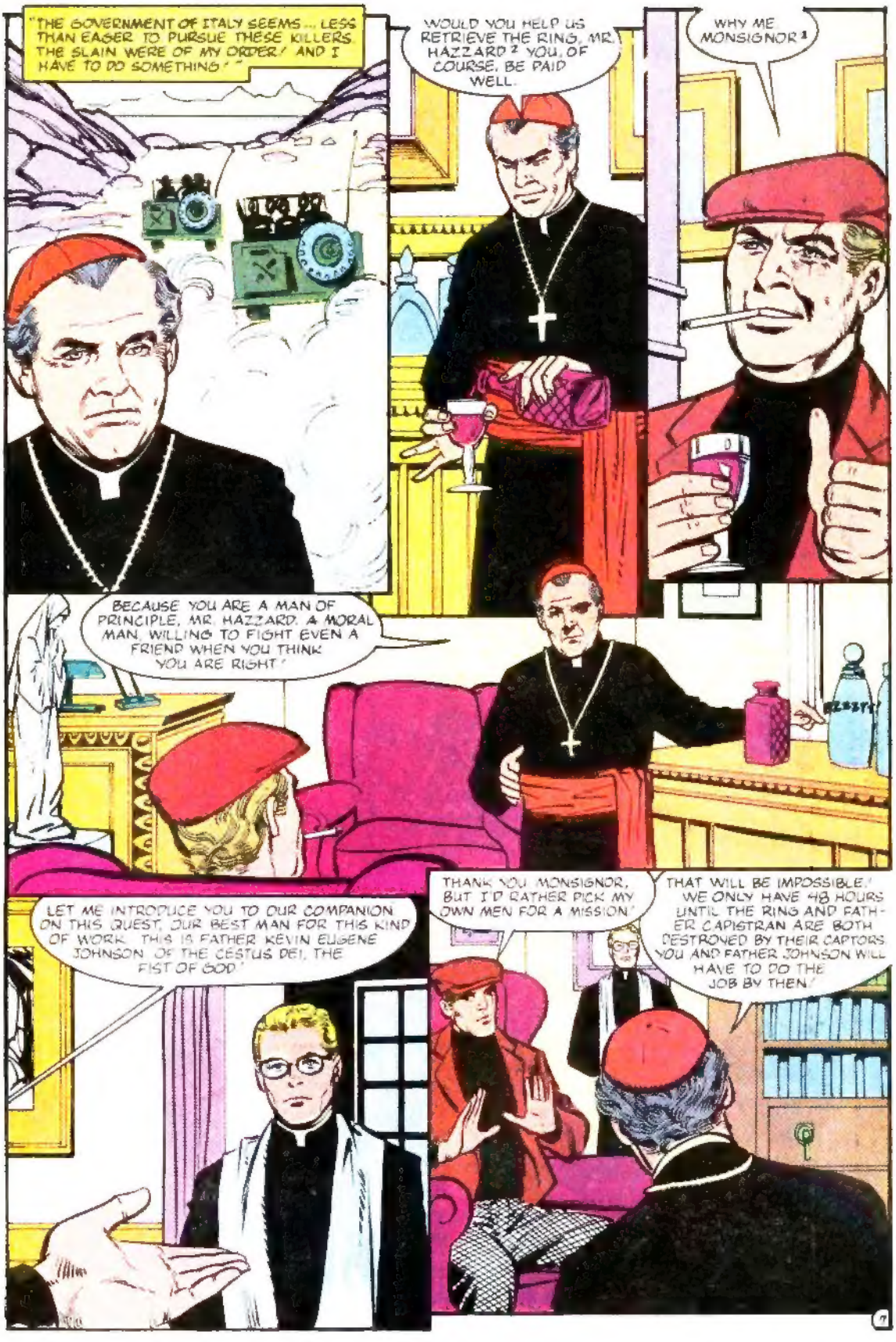

TREETOP!
NO!
MARK, THAT'S THREE DAYS IN A ROW! YOU CAN'T KEEP ON LIKE THIS!
YOU WEREN'T LIKE THIS WHEN YOU GOT BACK FROM CENTRAL AMERICA.
YEAH, IT'S OKAY WHEN I'M WORKING. GOT TO GET BACK IN THE FIELD. START LOOKING TOMORROW.
YES, IT'S OKAY WHEN YOU'RE WORKING.

BUT GETTING BACK TO WORK IS NOT THAT EASY FOR A MERCENARY WHO'S BROKEN A CONTRACT...
GOTTA FIND SOMETHING!
NO, HAMISH. NO MATTER WHAT, I WON'T GET THAT DESPERATE!
WE SHALL SEE, MY FRIEND. YOU KNOW WHERE TO REACH ME?
MR. HAZZARD? I BELIEVE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR WORK. USE THIS TICKET... I THINK YOU WILL BE SATISFIED.
EXIT
3

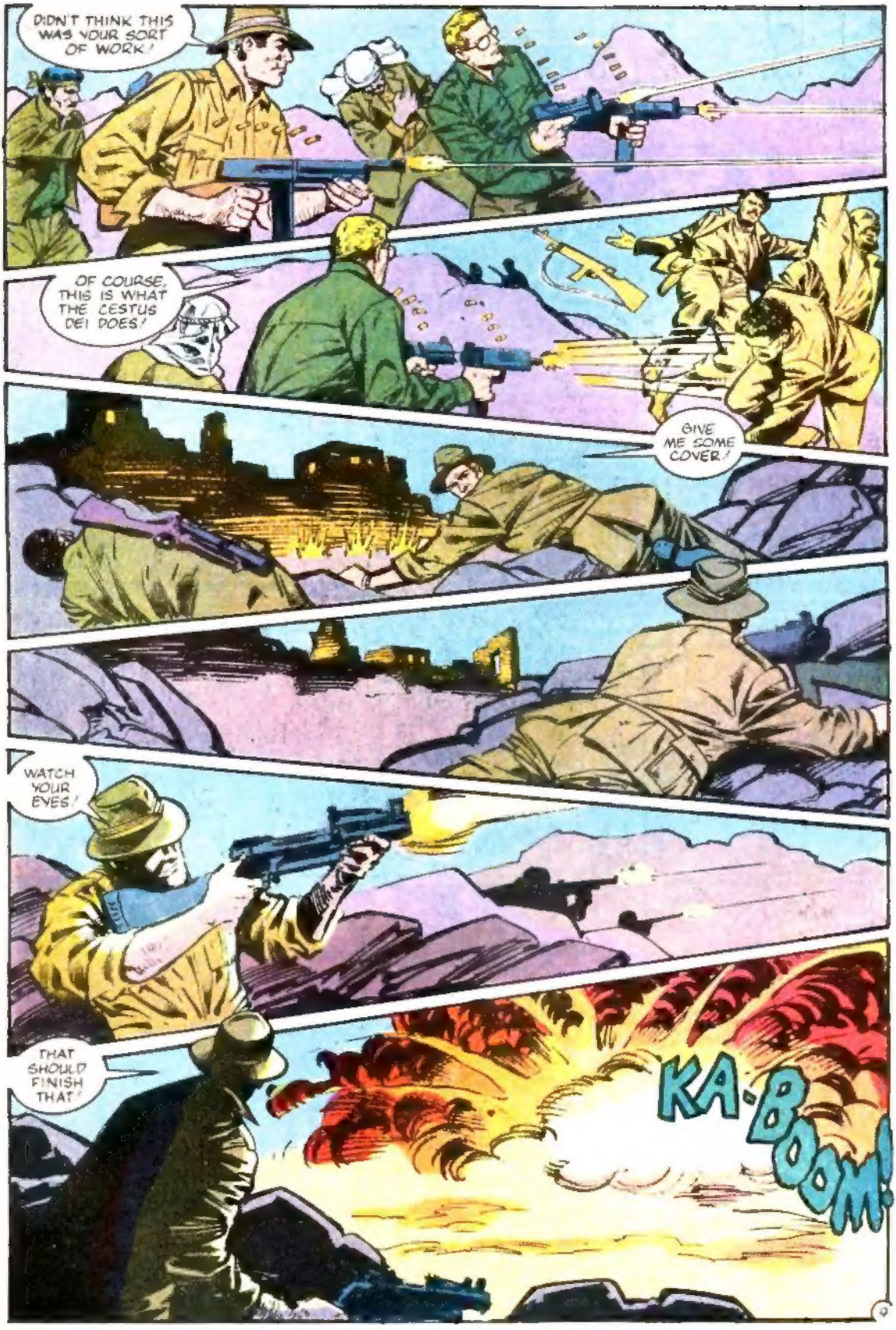

THE NEXT DAY...
THIS IS STUPID! BUT I HAD TO FIND SOMETHING TO DO
SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE ON THIS STREET
THIS WAY PLEASE
PLEASE BE CAREFUL, OF YOUR HEAD, MR. HAZZARD!
FOLLOW ME, MR HAZZARD!

WHERE THE BLAZES ARE WE GOING?
PATIENCE, MR HAZZARD. WE ARE NEARLY THERE!
THIS WAY, MR HAZZARD.
NOW WHAT?
MR HAZZARD! SORRY I'M A BIT LATE. PLEASE COME WITH ME.
SURE! LET'S HEAR ABOUT THIS 'SPECIAL' JOB.
SO YOU SEE, MR HAZZARD, WE NEEDED SOMEONE RATHER SPECIAL FOR THIS JOB.

CERTAINLY, MR. HAZZARD. OUR SECT RECENTLY MADE A MAJOR FIND IN THE HOLY LAND. THE RING OF THE FISHERMAN.
"IT HAS BEEN SOUGHT FOR YEARS, AND WE HAD GOTTEN VERY LUCKY. THEN, SOMETHING HAPPENED."
"A GROUP OF TERRORISTS, WE'RE NOT SURE WHO, BROKE IN AND BEGAN SHOOTING."
"THEY KILLED MOST OF OUR EXPEDITION."
"THEN THEY LEFT, WITH FATHER CAPISTRAN AND THE RING, LEAVING TWELVE DEAD BEHIND THEM."

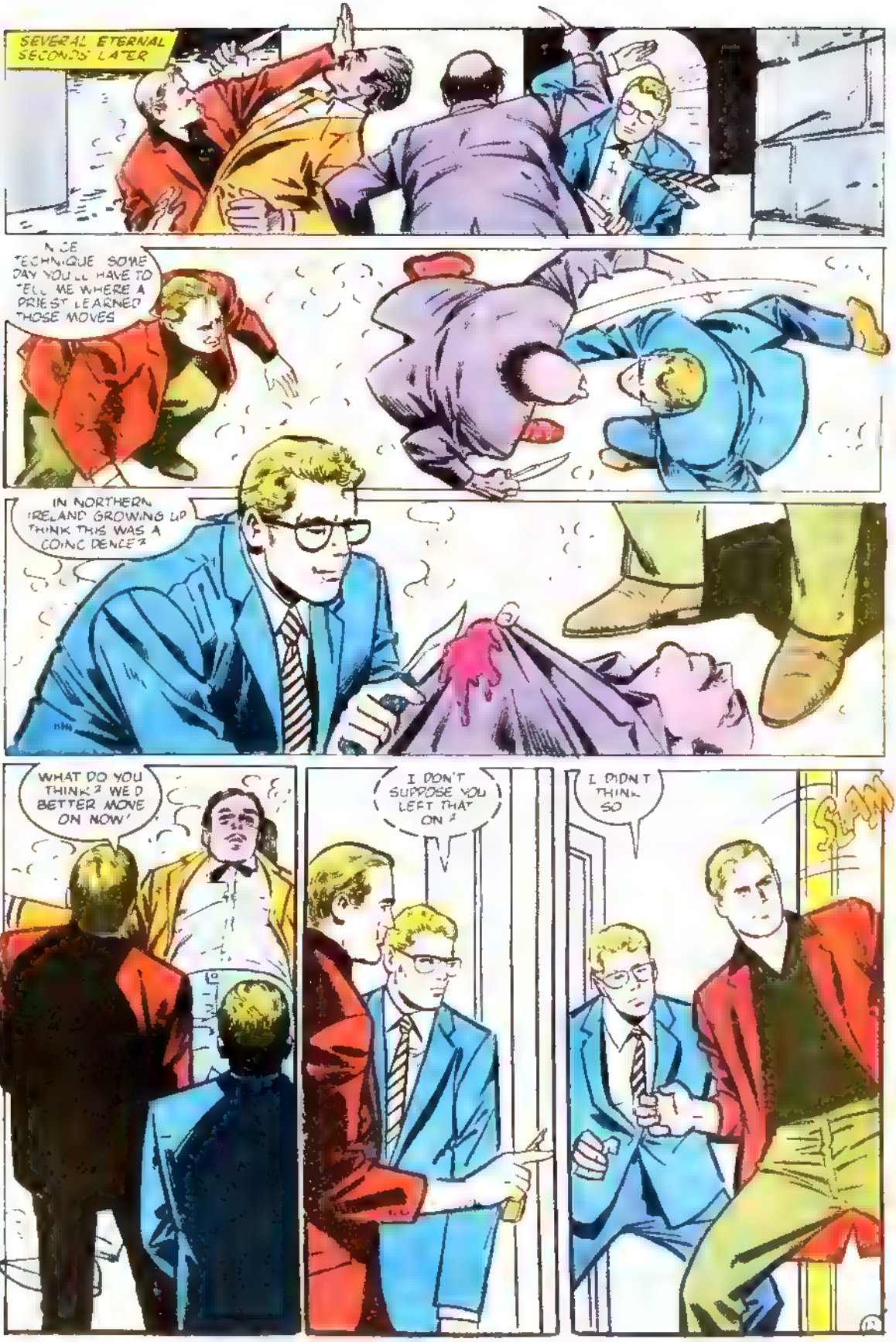

"THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY SEEMS ... LESS THAN EAGER TO PURSUE THESE KILLERS. THE SLAIN WERE OF MY ORDER! AND I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!"
WOULD YOU HELP US RETRIEVE THE RING, MR. HAZZARD? YOU, OF COURSE, BE PAID WELL.
WHY ME, MONSIGNOR?
BECAUSE YOU ARE A MAN OF PRINCIPLE, MR. HAZZARD. A MORAL MAN, WILLING TO FIGHT EVEN A FRIEND WHEN YOU THINK YOU ARE RIGHT!
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR COMPANION ON THIS QUEST, OUR BEST MAN FOR THIS KIND OF WORK. THIS IS FATHER KEVIN EUGENE JOHNSON. OF THE CESTUS DEI, THE FIST OF GOD!
THANK YOU, MONSIGNOR, BUT I'D RATHER PICK MY OWN MEN FOR A MISSION!
THAT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE! WE ONLY HAVE 48 HOURS UNTIL THE RING AND FATHER CAPISTRAN ARE BOTH DESTROYED BY THEIR CAPTORS. YOU AND FATHER JOHNSON WILL HAVE TO DO THE JOB BY THEN!

THE NEXT DAY ON A PLANE OUT OF ROME...
WHEN WE REACH THE LEBANON, LET ME DO ALL THE TALKING. I HAVE SOME GOOD CONTACTS THERE.
AS YOU WISH MR. HAZZARD YOU'RE THE BOSS.
LET'S HOPE WE CAN STILL GET A CAB!
WELL, THERE'RE STILL SOME SIGNS OF CIVILIZATION!
...AND THAT'S THE SITUATION, AHMAL. CAN YOU HELP US?
BUT OF COURSE, MARK! WE OWE YOU MUCH! THE MEN YOU SEEK ARE IN NORTHERN LEBANON. I WILL HAVE ONE OF OUR PEOPLE MEET YOU THERE AND LEAD YOU TO THEM.
EVERYBODY DOWN!


DIDN'T THINK THIS WAS YOUR SORT OF WORK!
OF COURSE, THIS IS WHAT THE CESTUS DEI DOES!
GIVE ME SOME COVER!
WATCH YOUR EYES!
THAT SHOULD FINISH THAT!
KA-BOOM!

LATER.
ONCE AGA N YOU HAVE HELPED US MY FR'END GO TO THE CITY YOU KNOW WHO TO SPEAK TO THERE '
LATER ST LL
NO WEAPONS PAST TH S PO NT THE SYR ANS TAKE THEIR SECURITY VERY SER OUSLY WHERE ANGLOS ARE CONCERNED '
IN BE'RUT
NOT TO WORRY MARK OLD MAN AFTER ALL YOU RE NOT PAYING FOR
TH S S THE PLACE WE LL F ND OUR CONTACT HERE '

MR HAZZARD ! AHMAL TOLD ME TO GIVE YOU WHATEVER HELP YOU NEED !
BUT WE CAN'T TALK HERE ! MEET ME IN YOUR HOTEL ROOM THIRTY MINUTES
STAY PUT ! WE'LL GIVE HIM A COUPLE OF MINUTES HEAD START !
A FEW MINUTES LATER ON THE WAY TO THEIR HOTEL
FINISH THEM QUICKLY ! DON'T LET THEM TIE TO TEAM UP


SEVERAL ETERNAL SECONDS LATER
NICE TECHNIQUE SOME DAY YOU'LL HAVE TO TELL ME WHERE A PRIEST LEARNED THOSE MOVES
IN NORTHERN IRELAND GROWING UP I THINK THIS WAS A COINCIDENCE
WHAT DO YOU THINK? WE'D BETTER MOVE ON NOW!
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU LEFT THAT ON?
I DIDN'T THINK SO
SLAM

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT DONE YET
Hmmm SEEMS TO INDICATE A POINT IN THE OLD TOWN LET'S TAKE A WALK AND CHECK IT OUT
LOOKS LIKE THE RIGHT PLACE NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET IN!

HE'S THE PROBLEM WE CAN'T LET HIM SOUND AN ALARM
LEAVE HIM TO ME JUST TAKE THE OTHERS DAY A TWO MINUTES?
TWO MINUTES LATER
THAT'S WHAT WE CAME FOR AFTER YOU

JACKPOT!

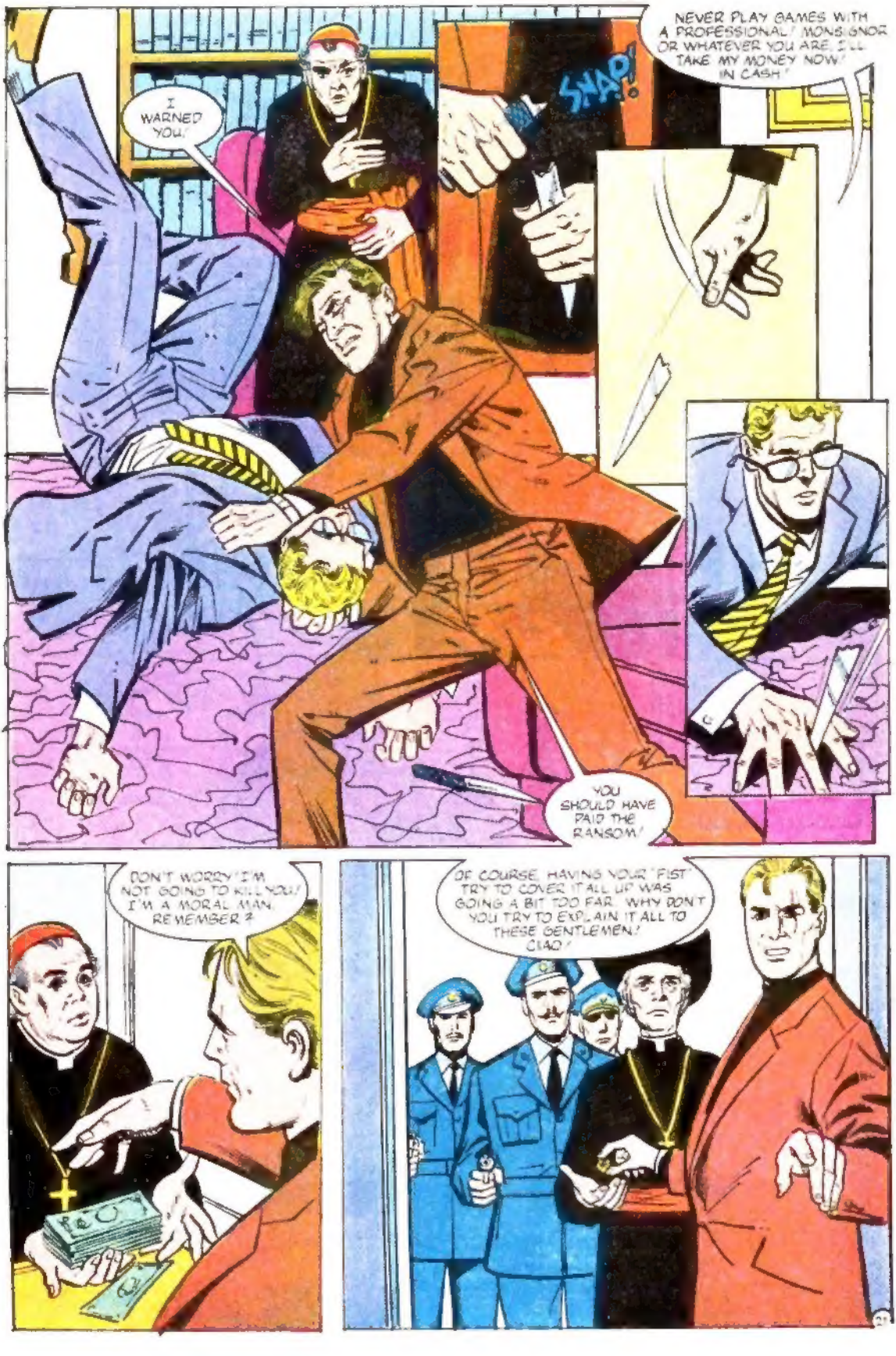
LET'S DO OUR JOB!
KEEP ME COVERED!
STOP THEM! KILL THEM AND THE OLD MAN! NOW
JOHNSON I'LL GIVE YOU THE KNIFE
DON'T LOSE MY KNIFE

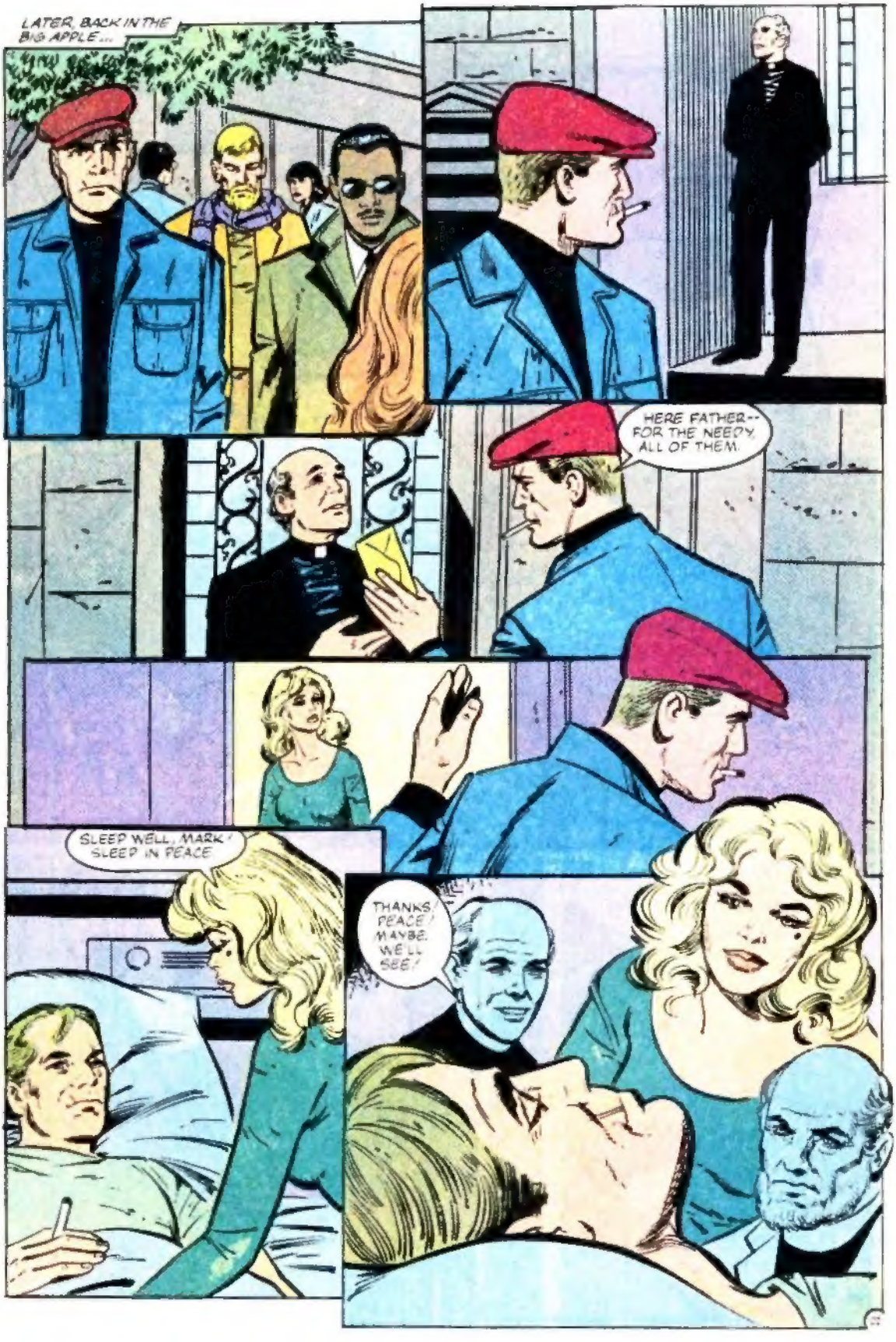
AHA!

THERE'S YOUR KNIFE BACK
HE'S STILL ALIVE!
ET NOMINI PATRIS ET SPIRITUS SANCTI
A-MEN! LET'S GO

A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER...
DON'T WORRY! IT'S SAFE ENOUGH NOW.
I HAVE TO WORRY! IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY UNTIL WE GET BACK TO THE HOLY SEE!
SOME HOURS LATER BACK IN ROME...
MY FRIENDS! YOU HAVE DONE IT!
YEAH, WE'VE DONE IT!

MR. HAZZARD! YOU SOUND BITTER!
I FOUND SOME PAPERS! THEY TELL A NASTY STORY!
YOUR SECT WAS BANNED BY THE CHURCH WASN'T IT? AND YOUR LITTLE "PLOT" WAS YOUR WAY TO TRY TO GET BACK INTO THE CHURCH'S GOOD GRACES!
BUT YOU BLEW IT! DIGGING IN LEBANON! WHEN THE DRUSE FOUND OUT YOU WERE THERE, THEY COULDN'T WAIT TO HIT YOU! THEN YOU GOT REAL DUMB. TRIED A PAYOFF DEAL, THEN RENEGED -- REALLY DUMB!
BY THE WAY, TELL YOUR FIST TO FORGET IT OR I'LL FEED HIS TOY KNIFE TO HIM, BIT BY BIT!


I WARNED YOU!
SNAP!
NEVER PLAY GAMES WITH A PROFESSIONAL! MONSIGNOR OR WHATEVER YOU ARE, I'LL TAKE MY MONEY NOW! IN CASH!
YOU SHOULD HAVE PAID THE RANSOM!
DON'T WORRY! I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU! I'M A MORAL MAN, REMEMBER?
OF COURSE, HAVING YOUR "FIST" TRY TO COVER IT ALL UP WAS GOING A BIT TOO FAR. WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO EXPLAIN IT ALL TO THESE GENTLEMEN! CIAO!


LATER, BACK IN THE BIG APPLE...
HERE FATHER-- FOR THE NEEDY ALL OF THEM.
SLEEP WELL, MARK! SLEEP IN PEACE
THANKS! PEACE! MAYBE. WE'LL SEE!